

November 12, 2011

A message from our President

## **Greetings Fantastic People**

I wanted to update you on several items that are happening since my last newsletter. Yes, it is a bit long but the idea is to share information so you too know what is going on, and a lot is happening!!!

The AGM was very successful with all people returned by acclamation. We thank you for your support and the trust that you placed in our ability to serve you and TRUOLFA.

I have attached a list of the officers and directors and the best way to contact them. Several items of business were approved at the AGM including a dues increase and confirmation of a more realistic stipend for the president. There was lots of energy at the AGM with 35 members staying on to participate. A suggestion was made that we plan to have our future AGMs after the annual workshops. I would ask you to remind Sarah and Valerie how much you enjoyed the workshop and are looking forward to the one next fall!

The executive unanimously re-appointed Dr. Mary Kruger as Chief Steward. We are most fortunate to have such a talented individual taking on this key role! Mary is leading the charge on the Online Modality grievance. She will be contacting a few faculty members that have both independent and online courses to provide input to the grievance. Please help if you are asked, this may turn out to be a critical turning point in our history and pay scheme.

The Online Modality Arbitration with Arbitrator Hall will occur in the next three months. The main presentation will be written and submitted tentatively this year. The key aspect is “what additional responsibilities are included with online modality versus independent study (print and web).” The employer is paying 30% above independent study which we are grieving. The online modality will become a major method of delivering courses; therefore, it is important that our remuneration for teaching Online Modality courses is commensurate with the added OLFM activities that are central to teaching such courses.

The new Online Modality course list is updated quarterly by TRU-OL. Several courses on the March 2011 list are not on the October 2011 listing which we are seeking clarification on. The March list is on our website [www.truolfa.ca](http://www.truolfa.ca) under resources. The October list will be posted there as well once it is clarified.

The Professional Development fund (PD) Committee members have been very busy. The last fiscal year (April 1 2010 to March 31, 2011) disbursed over \$53,000 to our members. Over the 7 months of this fiscal year (since April 1, 2011), the PD Committee has disbursed \$39,000, which would be over \$65,000 if we continue disbursing funds at the same pace and level of funding. Our annual allotment (1.5% of wages) is \$45,000. The PD committee is looking at an equitable way to support PD that is closer to our annual funding.

On Friday, prior to the October workshop, several of your Executive met with TRU’s President, Dr. Alan Shaver. Our inaugural meeting went well. We asked “what was his plan to integrate the face to face campus faculty with the open learning faculty.” He stated that his goal was to build relationships between Open Campus (OC) and Open Learning (OL). I pointed to a pilot project in the Math area that meets twice a year to build exactly the same relationship that Dr. Shaver referred to. Valerie Peachey has championed this project, led by Chris Morgan, which is starting to yield benefits with a joint review of math software that can help learners assess their skill level.

The collective agreement (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2012) will hardly be dry before bargaining restarts. YIKES!!! A bargaining survey of members will be carried out this Spring. About half of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE) locals are still “bargaining”. The process has been protracted and unsatisfactory!!

The FPSE President's Council (which I am a member) held the annual lobby with the Minister of Advanced Education, Naomi Yamamoto. Her main point was that the Government had no money. She pointed to the situation in Greece to support her position. Within 2 weeks, she introduced Bill 18, Advanced Education Statutes Amendment Act, as "housekeeping legislation". A key item was the removal from the Board of Governors, any person holding an elected position with the Union. A copy of the announcement and Cindy Oliver's response is posted on our website. I am asking our members to send a message to Victoria and your MLA that this is unacceptable. Please take the time to do so and be aware of the impact of this legislation.

I always try to keep a newsletter short but end up with a longer one than I know some of you will read. For those that made it to the end, thanks!!! There is a great deal of activity happening and I wanted you to be up to date! Happy Holidays and have a most prosperous 2012.

John O'Brien, CGA, MBA  
 President 2010-2012  
 250-852-6962 (VOIP 6962)

### TRUOLFA executive members for 2011-2012

<b>President:</b> John O'Brien	VOIP Phone: <b>6962</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:jobrien@tru.ca">jobrien@tru.ca</a>
<b>Vice President and Chief Steward:</b> Mary Kruger	VOIP Phone: <b>6997</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:mkruger@tru.ca">mkruger@tru.ca</a>
<b>Meetings Secretary:</b> Rocky Mirza	VOIP Phone: <b>6954</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:rmirza@tru.ca">rmirza@tru.ca</a>
<b>Membership Secretary:</b> Rosalyn Alexander	VOIP Phone: <b>6904</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:ralexander@tru.ca">ralexander@tru.ca</a>
<b>Professional Development Treasurer</b> Don Sinclair	VOIP Phone: <b>6979</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:dsinclair@tru.ca">dsinclair@tru.ca</a>
<b>General Fund Treasurer:</b> Sean Finucane	VOIP Phone: <b>7080</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:sfinucane@tru.ca">sfinucane@tru.ca</a>
<b>Director:</b> Be Harris	VOIP Phone: <b>6925</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:beharris@tru.ca">beharris@tru.ca</a>
<b>Director:</b> Derek Knox	VOIP Phone: <b>6935</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:dknox@tru.ca">dknox@tru.ca</a>
<b>Director:</b> Juan Caldera	VOIP Phone: <b>7031</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:jcaldera@tru.ca">jcaldera@tru.ca</a>
<b>Director:</b> Terry Power	VOIP Phone: <b>6968</b> TRU email: <a href="mailto:tpower@tru.ca">tpower@tru.ca</a>
<b>Past President:</b> Don Stanley:	VOIP Phone: 6980 TRU email: <a href="mailto:dstanley@tru.ca">dstanley@tru.ca</a>